

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

- 1 | 1. (Currently amended) ~~An automated method for~~ composing a virtual  
2 | book from a set of electronically stored documentation comprising multiple  
3 | books, the method comprising:
  - 4 | automatically and under computer control parsing said electronically  
5 | stored documentation to gather meta-information representing physical attributes  
6 | of said electronically stored documentation;  
7 | automatically storing said meta-information in a database;  
8 | automatically identifying a plurality of topics based on said meta-  
9 | information and the chapter and section headings in the documentation, wherein  
10 | each said topic is associated with a portion of the documentation;  
11 | automatically determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said  
12 | structure indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;  
13 | automatically classifying each of said topics within one or more  
14 | categories;  
15 | receiving a subject for a virtual book;  
16 | automatically using said topics and said meta-information to compose  
17 | said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are relevant to said subject,  
18 | and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said associated portion of the  
19 | documentation, wherein the complete virtual book can be stored for future access.
- 1 | 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising searching said  
2 | topics for a set of topics relevant to said subject.

1           3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said relevant topics are  
2 grouped in said virtual book by said categories.

1           4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a  
2 first category are listed in the order of their relevance to said subject.

1           5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a  
2 first category are listed in the order they occur within the documentation.

1           6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying index  
2 entries in the documentation.

1           7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said index entries are  
2 included in said virtual book.

1           8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sorting said  
2 relevant topics according to their relevance to said topic.

1           9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said categories include one  
2 or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference and troubleshooting.

1           10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composing comprises:  
2 identifying a characteristic of a viewer of said virtual book; and  
3 customizing said virtual book for the viewer on the basis of said  
4 characteristic.

1           11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic is one  
2 of the set of: employment role and level of experience.

1           12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic  
2 comprises a level of experience of the user and said customizing comprises  
3 omitting one or more of said categories from said virtual book.

1           13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic  
2 comprises an employment role of the user and said customizing comprises  
3 implementing said role as another category of said virtual book.

1           14. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method ~~for of~~  
2 generating a virtual electronic book from a set of electronic documentation  
3 comprising multiple books stored in multiple files, comprising:  
4           automatically parsing said electronic documentation to gather meta-  
5 information representing physical attributes of said electronic documentation;  
6           ~~storing physical attributes~~ said meta-information of the multiple files in a  
7 database;  
8           automatically identifying topics based on said meta-information and the  
9 chapter and section headings within the documentation, wherein each said topic  
10 comprises a heading within one of the multiple files;  
11           automatically associating unique identifiers with each of said topics;  
12           automatically storing said topics in said database;  
13           for each of said stored topics:  
14           automatically storing in said database a reference to a first book containing  
15 said topic;  
16           automatically storing in said database a reference to a first file containing  
17 said topic;  
18           automatically storing in said database a reference to a parent topic of said  
19 topic, if any, in the first book; and  
20           automatically storing in said database a reference to a child topic of said  
21 topic, if any, in the first book;

22 | automatically categorizing each of said stored topics into one or more pre-  
23 | determined categories, wherein each of said categories represents a type of topic;  
24 | receiving a subject for a virtual book;  
25 | automatically searching said stored topics for topics relevant to the  
26 | subject;  
27 | automatically presenting said virtual book to a viewer, wherein said virtual  
28 | book comprises said relevant topics grouped according to said categories and said  
29 | meta-information; and  
30 | automatically storing said virtual book for future access, wherein the  
31 | complete virtual book can be stored.

1 | 15. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium storing  
2 | instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an  
3 | ~~automated-method for~~ composing a virtual book from a set of electronically  
4 | stored documentation comprising multiple books, the method comprising:  
5 | automatically parsing said set of electronically stored documentation to  
6 | gather meta-information representing physical attributes of said electronically  
7 | stored documentation;  
8 | automatically storing said meta-information in a database;  
9 | automatically identifying a plurality of topics based on said meta-  
10 | information and the chapter and section headings in the documentation, wherein  
11 | each said topic is associated with a portion of the documentation;  
12 | automatically determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said  
13 | structure indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;  
14 | automatically classifying each of said topics within one or more  
15 | categories;  
16 | receiving a subject for a virtual book;  
17 | automatically using said topics and said meta-information to compose~~ing~~  
18 | said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are relevant to said subject,

19 and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said associated portion of the  
20 documentation, wherein the complete virtual book can be stored for future access.

1 16. (Canceled).

1 17. (Currently amended) An apparatus for producing a virtual book,  
2 comprising:  
3 a set of electronic documentation files;  
4 a parsing module configured to automatically gather meta-information  
5 representing physical attributes of said electronic documentation;  
6 a database configured to automatically store said meta-information;  
7 a topic module configured to automatically identify a set of topics based  
8 on said meta-information and the chapter and section headings within said  
9 documentation, wherein each said topic comprises a heading appearing in said  
10 documentation;  
11 a structural analysis module configured to automatically determine a  
12 hierarchy of said topics within said documentation;  
13 a categorizer configured to automatically classify a first of said topics into  
14 one or more predetermined categories;  
15 a database configured to automatically store said topics, said hierarchy and  
16 said classifications;  
17 a processor configured to automatically produce a virtual book comprising  
18 a subset of said set of topics from said topics and said meta-information, wherein  
19 said subset of said topics is relevant to a subject of said virtual book; and  
20 a storage device for automatically storing said virtual book, wherein the  
21 complete virtual book can be stored.

1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a network  
2 server configured to present said virtual book to a user.

1           19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising an index  
2 module configured to assemble index entries referring to said relevant topics  
3 within said documentation.

1           20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said processor is further  
2 configured to customize said virtual book on the basis of one of a role of a viewer  
3 of said virtual book and a level of experience of the viewer.

1           21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said categories include  
2 one or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference, troubleshooting, role  
3 of a viewer of said virtual book and level of experience of the viewer.